

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 89

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Sean Henry upon being named *The Tennessean's* 2016 Sports Person of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those dedicated professionals who have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Sean Henry, Nashville Predators and Bridgestone Arena president and chief executive officer and alternate governor, who was recently honored by *The Tennessean* as its 2016 Sports Person of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry received this prestigious award specifically because of his hard and productive work with the YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee's Men Ending Domestic Abuse (MEND) program; and

WHEREAS, when approached by the YWCA to create a partnership with the Predators for the MEND program, Mr. Henry was initially staggered by the statistics relative to domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry soon pledged his commitment to MEND and became its strongest advocate, often referring to domestic violence as "the biggest problem facing our community"; and

WHEREAS, MEND and Mr. Henry believe in the concept of men ending domestic violence by changing male attitudes at an early age and discouraging negative stereotypes; several Nashville sports leaders are involved in the program, and several teams have completed MEND training; and

WHEREAS, through his leadership, the Predators have given \$500,000 to the effort; a January game will be centered around domestic violence education; and Predators players will serve as the faces of the program; however, Sean Henry is the backbone of MEND; and

WHEREAS, credited with vastly improving the team's financial fortunes during his six-plus years with the Predators, Mr. Henry leads "the greatest staff in all of sports" through a unique approach that unifies the organization across all fronts; and

WHEREAS, during 2015-2016, Mr. Henry conducted the Nashville Predators and Bridgestone Arena to their most successful season to date: the Predators played to 99.2 percent capacity, set the single-season franchise attendance record with 695,828 fans, recorded a franchise record thirty-five sellouts, and sold out all six Stanley Cup Playoff home games with over 100-percent capacity. Bridgestone Arena ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the United States and 12<sup>th</sup> in the world for concert ticket sales; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry was instrumental in the unforgettable and standard-setting NHL All-Star Weekend hosted by the Predators on January 30-31, 2016; the All-Star Game was the most watched and highest rated such event in NBC's history, further proving that by virtually any standard, this was the most successful and interactive All-Star celebration ever; and

WHEREAS, Ford Ice Center continues to grow and succeed under Mr. Henry's guidance, hosting over 60,000 public skaters, 500 youth hockey participants, over 1,000 Learn to Skate participants, 1,500 adults participating in adult hockey leagues, Predators Youth Hockey initiatives, and the Scott Hamilton Skating Academy; and

WHEREAS, Sean Henry's work is focused on the organization's "ONE GOAL: To be the best sports and entertainment venue in the world," a goal that is fast approaching reality; to that end, he has overseen more than sixty million dollars in upgrades, improvements, and renovations at the arena during his six-year-plus tenure and helped secure a new lease with Metro Nashville that runs through 2028; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry spearheads the organization's commitment to the people of Nashville through the Nashville Predators Foundation and the Nashville Predators youth hockey programs; and

WHEREAS, a Long Island native and graduate of State University of New York, Mr. Henry served as an executive with the Tampa Bay Lightning for eleven years prior to relocating to Nashville; while living in Tampa, he and his family became involved with a home for abused children, and when it was their turn to host the Stanley Cup after the Lightning's victory in 2004, the Henrys shared the Cup with the residents of the home; and

WHEREAS, Sean Henry finds time to serve on the boards of the Nashville Predators Foundation, the YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, the Nashville Downtown Partnership, the Nashville Sports Council, and The Sports Fund; he is also an adjunct professor at Belmont University; and

WHEREAS, despite being the butt of many jokes because of his misadventures as a handyman and a modern-day Clark Griswold, many of which exploits are chronicled on his wife's blog, Sean Henry is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his family: his wife of twenty-five years, Tracey Manning (the Suburban Diva); his sons, Steven and Matthew, who are both involved in hockey; and his daughters, Amy and Jessica; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Sean Henry for his strong advocacy for the MEND program and his ongoing commitment to ending violence against women, congratulate him on receiving *The Tennessean's* 2016 Sports Person of the Year award, applaud his exemplary service as president and chief executive officer for the Nashville Predators and Bridgestone Arena, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.